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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VAN H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2126

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to *Response to Restriction Requirement* filed December 18, 2003.
2. Applicant's election of group I (claims 1-13 and 18-35), filed December 18, 2003 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
3. Claim 39 depends on claim 36. Claim 36 has been canceled in amendment A (filed December 18, 2003). Applicant is required to cancel claim 39 in response to this office action.
4. Claims 1-13, 18-35, and 39 are presented for examination, and claim 39 is withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-13 and 18-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Fowler et al.** (U.S. 5,551,037).

7. **As to claim 1**, Fowler teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a method for tracking at least one process using a socket object (*col.9, lines 1-10*), where the at least one process is utilized to execute an application program (*col.3, lines 39-46*), the method comprising:

- creating a process list for the socket object, where the process list contains a process identifier for a first process using the socket object (*col.3, line 31-col.4, line 19 and fig.2*); and

Fowler does not explicitly teach “updating, if a second process is using the socket object, the process list to include the process identifier for the second process.”

Fowler, however, teaches “*graph 201 is dynamically updated*” (*col.5, lines 5-26 and col.9, lines 44-67*).

It would have been obvious to apply the teaching of Fowler for “*updating, if a second process is using the socket object, the process list to include the process identifier for the second process*” in order to provide a means for efficiently controlling operation of cooperating processes.

8. **As to claim 2**, Fowler teaches the process list is displayed on a user interface in response to a user interface command entered by a user (*col.3, lines 20-28*).

9. **As to claim 3**, Fowler teaches adding the process identifier of the second process to the process list if the second process is to use the socket object (*col.5, lines 5-26 and col.9, lines 44-67*).

10. **As to claim 4**, Fowler teaches the second process is to use the socket object if a socket descriptor created for the socket object is passed from the first process to the second process (*col.9, lines 1-10*).

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11. **As to claim 5**, Fowler teaches removing the process identifier of at least one of the first process and second process from the process list if the at least one of the first process and second process no longer uses the socket object (*col.5, lines 8-53*).
12. **As to claim 6**, Fowler teaches the at least one of the first process and second process no longer uses the socket object if a socket descriptor created for the socket object is removed from the at least one of the first process and second process (*col.5, lines 8-53*).
13. **As to claim 7**, Fowler teaches removing the process identifier of at least one of the first process and the second process from the process list if the at least one of the first process and second process expires (*col.5, lines 20-21 and col.8, lines 36-49*).
14. **As to claim 8**, Fowler teaches the first process comprises a Sockets Application Program Interface function utilized to create the socket object (*fig.4*).
15. **As to claim 9**, Fowler teaches the Sockets API function comprises a socket () function (*col.4, lines 1-19*).
16. **As to claim 10**, Fowler teaches the creating and updating are performed by an operating system after a computer executes a sockets support program (*col.5, line 31-col.4, line 19*).
17. **As to claim 11**, Fowler teaches the first process and the second process are provided in the same computer system (*col.3, lines 6-19*).
18. **As to claim 12**, Fowler teaches the first process and the second process are provided in different computer systems (*col.3, lines 6-19*).
19. **As to claim 13**, Fowler teaches the process identifier comprises at least one of a process name, a user name associated with the process name and a process number (*col.3, lines 31-54 and fig. 2*).

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20. **As to claim 18**, the rejection of claim 1 above is incorporated herein in full. Claim 18, however, further recites a memory and a processor.

Fowler teaches a memory and a processor (*col.3, lines 6-19 and fig.1*).

21. **As to claim 19**, Fowler teaches a network interface for coupling the socket object with a remote device (*figs.4 and 5*).

22. **As to claim 20**, Fowler teaches a display device, coupled to the processor, for displaying the process list when the processor retrieves and executes a user interface, program from the memory (*fig.1*).

23. **As to claim 21**, Fowler teaches the operating system comprises UNIX (*col.4, lines 1-19*).

24. **As to claim 22**, Fowler teaches the network interface couples the first process to the second process (*figs.4 and 5*).

25. **As to claims 23-35**, note the rejection of claims 1-13 above. Claims 23-35 are the same as claims 1-13, except claims 23-35 are computer readable medium claims and claims 1-13 are method claims.

Conclusion

26. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Zargham et al. (U.S. 6470398 B1) teaches "the remote process or the agent managing the remote connection keeps track of which interprocess resources (or FDs) are of interest to a

